

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-18, 20-26 and 28-32, pending in this application, are reproduced as follows:

- 1 1. (previously presented) A communication system comprising:
2 an IP-enabled communication network;
3 at least one remote site connected to the communication network, the
4 remote site comprising:
5 (a) a plurality of subscribers,
6 (b) a switch interconnecting the plurality of subscribers,
7 (c) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the
8 switch, each multi-line hunt group comprising a
9 plurality of voice communication lines and at least one
10 signaling line carrying signaling data, and
11 (d) a gateway receiving the plurality of voice
12 communication lines and the at least one signaling line
13 for each multi-line hunt group, the gateway interfacing
14 each multi-line hunt group and the communication
15 network; and
16 at least one service site connected to the communication network, the
17 service site comprising:
18 (e) a service platform providing voice services;
19 (f) a switch connected to the service platform;
20 (g) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the
21 switch, and
22 (h) a gateway interfacing each multi-line hunt group and
23 the communication network.
- 1 2. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 service platform comprises a voicemail platform.

1 3. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 service platform comprises a unified messaging platform.

1 4. (canceled)

1 5. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 communication network carries voice over IP (VoIP).

1 6. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 communication network carries voice over frame relay (VoFR).

1 7. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 communication network carries voice over ATM (VoATM).

1 8. (canceled)

1 9. (canceled)

1 10. (previously presented) A communication system as in claim
2 1 wherein each gateway converts voice received over communication lines and the
3 signaling data received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by the
4 communication network.

1 11. (previously presented) A communication system as in claim
2 1 wherein each gateway converts line signaling protocols into a format acceptable by
3 the communication network and passes the converted line signaling protocols to at
4 least one service site.

1 12. (previously presented) A communication system as in claim
2 1 wherein each gateway implements a tunneling scheme with at least one gateway at
3 a different site to exchange the signaling data.

1 13. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each
2 gateway compresses and decompresses voice information for reduced communication
3 network bandwidth.

1 14. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each
2 gateway performs DS-0 mapping to map individual hunt group members across the
3 communication network.

1 15. (previously presented) A communication system for
2 transmitting audible messages over an IP-enabled communication network
3 comprising:
4 a locality of subscriber units;
5 a switch interconnecting the subscriber units, the switch routing traffic
6 outside of the locality of subscriber units over at least one multi-line hunt group, each
7 multi-line hunt group including a plurality of voice communication lines and at least
8 one signaling line carrying signaling data associated with calls through the plurality
9 of voice communication lines; and
10 a gateway in communication with each multi-line hunt group and the
11 communication network, the gateway converting voice information received over
12 each communication line and signaling data received over each signaling line into a
13 data format acceptable by the communication network.

1 16. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway formats data for voice over IP (VoIP).

1 17. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway formats data for voice over frame relay network (VoFR).

1 18. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway formats data for voice over ATM (VoATM).

1 19. (canceled)

1 20. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway implements a tunneling scheme with at least one gateway at a different site
3 to exchange signaling data.

1 21. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway compresses and decompresses voice information for reduced communication
3 network bandwidth.

1 22. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway performs DS-0 mapping to map individual hunt group members across the
3 communication network.

1 23. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network comprising:

3 receiving information from at least one of a plurality of subscribers;
4 determining at least one of a plurality of voice communication lines
5 and at least one signaling line in a multi-line hunt group to carry the received
6 information and associated signaling;

7 formatting information on each of the voice communication lines and
8 signaling lines into a format compatible with the communication network; and

9 sending the formatted information over the communication network.

1 24. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 further comprising:
3 receiving the formatted information over the communication network;
4 reformatting the converted information back into the original format
5 for transmission over at least one of a plurality of voice communication lines and at
6 least one signaling line in a multi-line hunt group; and
7 sending the reformatted information over a multi-line hunt group.

1 25. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the reformatted information is sent
3 to a service platform comprising a voicemail platform.

1 26. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the reformatted information is sent
3 to a service platform comprising a unified messaging platform.

1 27. (canceled)

1 28. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries
3 voice over IP (VoIP).

1 29. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries
3 voice over frame relay (VoFR).

1 30. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries
3 voice over ATM (VoATM).

- 1 31. (previously presented) A communication system comprising:
2 an IP-enabled communication network;
3 at least one remote site connected to the communication network, the
4 remote site comprising:
5 (a) a plurality of subscribers,
6 (b) a switch interconnecting the plurality of subscribers,
7 (c) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the
8 switch, each multi-line hunt group comprising a
9 plurality of voice communication lines and at least one
10 signaling line carrying signaling data, and
11 (d) at least one wide area network access device
12 interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the
13 communication network; and
14 at least one service site connected to the communication network, the
15 service site comprising:
16 (e) a service platform providing voice services;
17 (f) a switch connected to the service platform;
18 (g) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the
19 switch, and
20 (h) at least one wide area network access device
21 interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the
22 communication network.

- 1 32. (previously presented) A communication system for transmitting
2 audible messages over an IP-enabled communication network comprising:
3 a locality of subscriber units;
4 a switch interconnecting the subscriber units, the switch routing traffic
5 outside of the locality of subscriber units over at least one multi-line hunt group, each
6 multi-line hunt group including a plurality of voice communication lines and at least
7 one signaling line carrying signaling data; and

8 at least one wide area network access device in communication with
9 each multi-line hunt group and the communication network, the wide area network
10 access device converting voice information received over each communication line
11 and signaling data received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by
12 the communication network.